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OLC 70-0116

13 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Mr. William Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Mr. S. Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee Re Agency Budget

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1. Messrs. Woodruff and Preston visited the Agency from 0900 to 1430 hours on 12 February 1970 where they were briefed on the Agency's budget and general programs by John Clarke and [redacted] of OPPB, on Southeast Asian operations by [redacted] Chief FE Division, and R&D projects by Carl Duckett, DDS&T. The four-hour briefing session was followed by lunch in the Executive Dining Room.

2. Significant points during the discussion included the following:

a. Mr. Woodruff suggested that if the Agency wished to get out of the Phoenix and PRU programs in Vietnam, this might be a good opportunity for our Senate Appropriations Subcommittee to exercise its oversight responsibilities by advising us, in their annual letter approving our budget, that we should phase out of these programs. Woodruff explained that such action by the Subcommittee would serve to refute the allegation that the Subcommittee was not keeping a tight rein on the Agency, and to exert pressure on DOD and BOB to get DOD to take over responsibility for these activities.

b. Woodruff, probably reflecting Chairman Russell's attitude, seemed generally favorable toward our Laos operations. Preston, perhaps reflecting Chairman Mahon's somewhat more skeptical attitude toward operations of this kind, appeared more negative.

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c. Preston emphasized that R&D projects were getting critical scrutiny by the Congress and we should be prepared for tough going in the future.

d. Preston asked several questions about our procedures for controlling and monitoring R&D contracts.

e. Woodruff noted that we should be prepared, at our next budget presentation, for sharp questioning on our Radios.

f. Woodruff was interested in clarification of the relationship between CIA and DOD activities [redacted] and in how these activities were coordinated to ensure that the right-hand knew what the left-hand was doing.

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h. Several questions indicated that at our next formal budget presentation we should expect questions on ADP.

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j. Woodruff was quite complimentary about the format of our last year's budget presentation before our Senate Subcommittee, remarking that everything was fine "except for the movie" which he recommends we forget about in future presentations.

k. Woodruff and Preston hope to pay an early visit to NPIC.

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3. In conclusion both Woodruff and Preston expressed apparently quite sincere appreciation, and seemed thoroughly satisfied with both the manner and the content of the presentation.

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